



DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER PLUMBERS
STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

As of April 2004

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NEW JERSEY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

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STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER PLUMBERS

SUBCHAPTER 2. APPLICATION, EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS, EXAMINATION

BD. OF MASTER PLUMBERS CHAPTER 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

**ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS
AFFECTED BY THIS SUBTITLE**

45:1-1. Persons entitled to practice, etc. under former laws unaffected

**ARTICLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN STATE BOARDS OF REGISTRATION
AND EXAMINATION**

45:1-1. Persons entitled to practice, etc. under former laws unaffected

Any person now entitled to practice any profession or to engage in any occupation, governed or regulated by the provisions of this title by virtue of any prior law, shall continue to be entitled to practice or engage in the same, notwithstanding the enactment of this title, and the validity of any license or other authorization to practice any such profession or to engage in any such occupation, heretofore issued to any person under any prior law, or of any proceeding pending to obtain such a license or authorization shall not be affected by the enactment of this title but all such persons shall in all other respects be subject to the provisions of this title.

45:1-2. Repealed by L.1971, c. 60,§ 5, eff. March 25, 1971

45:1-2.1. Professional boards and commissions; application of act

The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards and commissions: the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers, the New Jersey Real Estate Commission, the State Board of Shorthand Reporting, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining Board, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the State Board of Social Work Examiners , the State Board of Public Movers and Warehousemen and the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

45:1-2.2. Appointment of members by governor; public members; member from department in executive branch; quorum; vote necessary for action

a. All members of the several professional boards and commissions shall be appointed by the Governor in the manner prescribed by law; except in appointing members other than those appointed pursuant to subsection b. or subsection c., the Governor shall give due consideration to, but shall not be bound by, recommendations submitted by the appropriate professional organizations of this State.

b. In addition to the membership otherwise prescribed by law, the Governor shall appoint in the same manner as presently prescribed by law for the appointment of members, two additional members to represent the interests of the public, to be known as public members, to each of the following boards and commissions: The New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board of Psychological Examiners, the New Jersey Real Estate Commission, the State Board of Shorthand Reporting, the State Board of Social Work Examiners, and the State

Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, and one additional public member to each of the following boards: the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers, and the State Real Estate Appraiser Board. Each public member shall be appointed for the term prescribed for the other members of the board or commission and until the appointment of his successor. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. The Governor may remove any such public member after hearing, for misconduct, incompetency, neglect of duty or for any other sufficient cause.

No public member appointed pursuant to this section shall have any association or relationship with the profession or a member thereof regulated by the board of which he is a member, where such association or relationship would prevent such public member from representing the interest of the public. Such a relationship includes a relationship with members of one's immediate family; and such association includes membership in the profession regulated by the board. To receive services rendered in a customary client relationship will not preclude a prospective public member from appointment. This paragraph shall not apply to individuals who are public members of boards on the effective date of this act.

It shall be the responsibility of the Attorney General to insure that no person with the aforementioned association or relationship or any other questionable or potential conflict of interest shall be appointed to serve as a public member of any board regulated by this section.

Where a board is required to examine the academic and professional credentials of an applicant for licensure or to test such applicant orally, no public member appointed pursuant to this section shall participate in such examination process; provided, however, that public members shall be given notice of and may be present at all such examination processes and deliberations concerning the results thereof, and, provided further, that public members may participate in the development and establishment of the procedures and criteria for such examination processes.

c. The Governor shall designate a department in the Executive Branch of the State Government which is closely related to the profession or occupation regulated by each of the boards or commissions designated in section 1 of P.L.1971, c. 60 (C. 45:1-2.1) and shall appoint the head of such department, or the holder of a designated office or position in such department, to serve without compensation at the pleasure of the Governor as a member of such board or commission.

d. A majority of the voting members of such boards or commissions shall constitute a quorum thereof and no action of any such board or commission shall be taken except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the entire board or commission.

45:1-2.3. Qualifications; rights and duties

Such additional members:

a. Need not meet the educational and professional requirements for membership on such boards or commissions as provided in the several statutes establishing such boards and commissions; and

b. Shall be voting members subject to the same rights, obligations and duties as other members of their respective boards or commissions.

45:1-2.4. Effect of act on term of member in office

Nothing in this act shall affect the right of a board or commission member in office on the effective date of this act to continue to serve for the term for which he was appointed.

45:1-2.5. Compensation and reimbursement of expenses of members; executive secretaries; compensation and terms of employment; offices and meeting places

With respect to the boards or commissions designated in section 1 of P.L.1971, c. 60 (C.45:1-2.1), except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section, and notwithstanding the provisions of any other law:

a. The officers and members shall be compensated on a per diem basis in the amount of \$25.00 or an amount to be determined by the Attorney General, with the approval of the State Treasurer, but not to exceed \$100.00 per diem or

\$2,500.00 annually, and shall be reimbursed for actual expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their official duties. Such moneys shall be paid according to rules and regulations promulgated by the Attorney General.

b. The executive secretary shall receive such salary as shall be determined by the appointing authority within the limits of available appropriations and shall serve at its pleasure. Any such executive secretary who holds a certificate, license or registration issued by the board or commission by which he is employed shall not during such employment be permitted to engage in any profession or occupation regulated by the board or commission.

c. The head of the department to which such board or commission is assigned shall maintain within any public building, whether owned or leased by the State, suitable quarters for the board's or commission's office and meeting place, provided that no such office or meeting place shall be within premises owned or occupied by an officer or member of such board or commission.

d. The compensation schedule for members of boards and commissions provided in subsection a. of this section shall not apply to the members of the New Jersey Real Estate Commission, who shall be compensated pursuant to R.S.45:15-6 or to members of the State Board of Medical Examiners who shall receive compensation of \$150 per diem.

45:1-2.6. Inapplicability of act to rights under civil service or any pension law or retirement system

Nothing in this act shall deprive any person of any tenure rights or of any right or protection provided him by Title 11 of the Revised Statutes, Civil Service,¹ or any pension law or retirement system.

¹Now title 11A.

45:1-3. Expenses of boards paid from income; surplus paid to state treasurer; accounts

Each member of the boards mentioned in section 45:1-2¹ of this title shall be entitled to his actual traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of his duties, which sum shall be paid from the license fees and other sources of income of such boards. Such boards shall also be entitled to expend from their income such sums as shall be necessary to defray all proper expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties, including the compensation of any of their officers or agents whom they are authorized to compensate. Such boards, if authorized to collect an annual registration or license fee from persons licensed by them, may retain in their treasuries the fees so collected and use the same for the purpose of defraying the expenses of securing evidence against and prosecuting persons violating the provisions of the laws with the enforcement of which they are charged, or, in case the revenue of the boards from other sources shall be insufficient to pay the salary of their secretaries and their other expenses, such fees may be expended for such purposes. Such boards shall be entitled to retain, in addition to the above, at least one hundred dollars in their treasuries for the purpose of preparing and holding their examinations. On or before October thirty-first in each year such boards shall pay to the state treasurer all moneys remaining in their treasuries, except as above stated, which sum, when so paid, shall form a part of the state fund. Such boards shall keep accurate accounts of their receipts and expenditures, which accounts shall be subject to audit by the state comptroller.

¹ Repealed; see, now, §§ 45:1-2.1, 45:1-2.2.

45:1-3.1. Application of act

The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards and commissions: the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers, the State Board of Shorthand Reporting, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining Board, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the State Board of Social Work Examiners and the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

45:1-3.2. Charges for examinations, licensures and other services; establishment or change by rule; standards

Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes or any other law to the contrary, any board or commission named in section 1 of this supplementary act ¹ may by rule establish, prescribe or change the charges for examinations, licensures and other services it performs, which rule shall first be approved by the head of the department to which such board or commission is assigned and shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1).

Any board’s or commission’s charges established, prescribed or changed pursuant to this section shall be established, prescribed or changed to such extent as shall be necessary to defray all proper expenses incurred by the board or commission in the performance of its duties but such charges shall not be fixed at a level that will raise amounts in excess of the amount estimated to be so required.

¹N.J.S.A. § 45:1-3.1.

45:1-3.3. Administrative fees charged by boards; modification

The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs may by rule establish, prescribe, or modify administrative fees charged by boards in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c. 410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). For purposes of this section, “administrative fees” are charges assessed to licensees, registrants or holders of certificates, as the case may be, for board functions that are not unique to a particular board but are uniform throughout all boards. Administrative fees include, but are not limited to, fees for a duplicate or replacement license, certification or registration, late renewal fee, license reinstatement fee, and the fee for processing change of address.

45:1-4. Salary of secretary

The secretary of each of the boards mentioned in section 45:1-π of this title, whether or not a member thereof, shall be entitled to receive such reasonable salary or compensation for his services as secretary as shall be fixed by such boards, which shall be paid by the boards from their receipts, unless an appropriation is made for the expenses of such boards, in which case the same shall be paid from such appropriation.

45:1-5, 45:1-6. Repealed by L.1979, c. 432, § 4, eff. Feb. 14, 1980

45:1-7. Professional or occupational licenses or certificates of registration; duration; expiration; exceptions; fees

Notwithstanding any of the provisions of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes or of any other law to the contrary, all professional or occupational licenses or certificates of registration, except such licenses or certificates issued to real estate brokers or salesmen pursuant to chapter 15 of Title 45, which prior to the effective date of this act were issued for periods not exceeding one year and were annually renewable, shall, on and after the effective date of this act, be issued for periods of two years and be biennially renewable, except that licenses and business permits issued to electrical contractors and certificates of registration issued to qualified journeymen electricians pursuant to chapter 5A of Title 45 shall be issued for periods of three years and be triennially renewable; provided, however, the boards or commissions in charge of the issuance or renewal of such licenses or certificates may, in order to stagger the expiration dates thereof, provide that those first issued or renewed after the effective date of this act, shall expire and become void on a date fixed by the respective boards or commissions, not sooner than six months nor later than 29 months, after the date of issue.

The fees for the respective licenses and certificates of registration issued pursuant to this act for periods of less or greater than one year shall be in amounts proportionately less or greater than the fees established by law.

45:1-7.1. Application to holders of professional or occupational licenses

a. Notwithstanding any other act or regulation to the contrary, the provisions of this section and sections 6 and 7 of P.L.1999, c. 403 (C.45:1-7.2 et al.) shall apply to every holder of a professional or occupational license or certificate of registration or certification issued or renewed by a board specified in section 2 of P.L. 1978, c. 73 (C.45:1-15), who seeks renewal of that license or certificate.

b. Every holder of a professional or occupational license or certificate of registration or certification, issued or renewed by a board specified in section 2 of P.L.1978, c. 73 (C.45:1-15), who seeks renewal shall submit a renewal application and pay a renewal fee prior to the date of expiration of the license or certificate of registration or certification. If the holder does not renew the license or certificate prior to its expiration date, the holder may renew it within 30 days of its expiration date by submitting a renewal application and paying a renewal fee and a late fee. Any professional or occupational license or certificate of registration or certification not renewed within 30 days of its expiration date shall be suspended without a hearing.

c. Any individual who continues to practice with an expired license or certificate of registration or certification after 30 days following its expiration date shall be deemed to be engaged in unlicensed practice of the regulated profession or occupation, even if no notice of suspension has been provided to the individual.

d. A professional or occupational license or certificate of registration or certification suspended pursuant to this section may be reinstated within five years following its date of expiration upon submission of a renewal application and payment of an additional reinstatement fee. An applicant seeking reinstatement of a license or certificate suspended pursuant to this section more than five years past its expiration date shall successfully complete the examination required for initial licensure, registration or certification and submit a renewal application and payment of an additional reinstatement fee.

e. A board specified in section 2 of P.L. 1978, c. 73 (C. 45:1-15) shall send a notice of renewal to each of its holders of a professional or occupational license or certificate of registration or certification, as applicable, at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license or certificate. If the notice to renew is not sent at least 60 days prior to the expiration date, no monetary penalties or fines shall apply to the holder for failure to renew.

45:1-7.2. Reinstatement

A board may reinstate the professional or occupational license or certificate of registration or certification of an applicant whose license or certificate has been suspended pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1999, c. 403 (C.45:1-7.1), provided that the applicant otherwise qualifies for licensure, registration or certification and submits the following upon application for reinstatement:

a. Payment of all past delinquent renewal fees;

b. Payment of a reinstatement fee;

c. An affidavit of employment listing each job held during the period of suspended license, registration or certification which includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of each employer; and

d. If applicable, satisfactory proof that the applicant has maintained proficiency by completing the continuing education hours or credits required for the renewal of an active license or certificate of registration or certification.

45:1-7.3. Renewal applications

a. Renewal applications for all professional or occupational licenses or certificates of registration or certification shall provide the applicant with the option of either active or inactive renewal. A renewal applicant electing to renew as inactive shall not engage in professional or occupational practice within the State.

b. An applicant who selects the inactive renewal option shall remain on inactive status for the entire renewal period unless, upon application to the board, the board permits the inactive applicant to return to active status provided such applicant presents satisfactory proof that he has maintained proficiency by completing the continuing education hours or credits required for the renewal of an active license, registration or certification, if applicable. The continuing education hours or credits shall be completed by the applicant within three years prior to the date of application for the return to active status, unless otherwise provided by board rule.

45:1-8. Contractors; application of § 45:1-9

The provisions of this act apply to the following classes of contractors:

- a. Tree experts, certified pursuant to P.L.1940, c. 100 (C. 13:1-28 et seq¹);
- b. Home repair contractors, licensed pursuant to P.L.1960, c. 41 (C. 17:16C-62 et seq.);
- c. Electrical contractors, licensed pursuant to P.L.1962, c. 162 (C. 45:5A-1 et seq.);
- d. Master plumbers, licensed pursuant to P.L.1968, c. 362 (C. 45:14C-1 et seq.);
- e. Well drillers, licensed pursuant to P.L.1947, c. 377 (C. 58:4A-5 et seq.); and
- f. Any class of contractors who hereafter are licensed by the State.

¹Renumbered C. 45:15C-1 to 45:15C-10.

45:1-9. Indication of license or certificate number on contracts, bids and advertisements

Any contractor licensed by the State shall indicate his license or certificate number on all contracts, subcontracts, bids and all forms of advertising as a contractor.

45:1-10. Disclosure of laboratory payments on bills to patients and third party payors

It shall be unlawful for any person licensed in the State of New Jersey to practice medicine or surgery, dentistry, osteopathy, podiatry or chiropractic to agree with any clinical, bio-analytical or hospital laboratory, wheresoever located, to make payments to such laboratory for individual tests, combination of tests, or test series for patients unless such person discloses on the bills to patients and third party payors the name and address of such laboratory and the net amount or amounts paid or to be paid to such laboratory for individual tests, combination of tests or test series.

45:1-10.1. Claims for third party payment; licensed health care professional; responsibility for filing

Effective 12 months after the adoption of regulations establishing standard health care enrollment and claim forms by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1999, c. 154 (C.17B:30-23), a health care professional licensed pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes is responsible for filing all claims for third party payment, including claims filed on behalf of the licensed professional's patient for any health care service provided by the licensed professional that is eligible for third party payment, except that at the patient's option, the patient may file the claim for third party payment.

a. In the case of a claim filed on behalf of the professional's patient, the professional shall file the claim within 60 days of the last date of service for a course of treatment, on the standard claim form adopted by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1999, c. 154 (C.17B:30-23).

b. In the case of a claim in which the patient has assigned his benefits to the professional, the professional shall file the claim within 180 days of the last date of service for a course of treatment, on the standard claim form adopted by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1999, c. 154 (C.17B:30-23). If the professional does not file the claim within 180 days of the last date of service for a course of treatment, the third party payer shall reserve the right to deny payment of the claim, in accordance with regulations established by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, and the professional shall be prohibited from seeking any payment directly from the patient.

(1) In establishing the standards for denial of payment, the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance shall consider the good faith use of information provided by the patient to the professional with respect to the identity of the patient's third party payer, delays in filing a claim related to coordination of benefits between third party payers and any other factors the commissioner deems appropriate, and, accordingly, shall define specific instances where the sanctions permitted pursuant to this subsection shall not apply.

(2) A professional who fails to file a claim within 180 days and whose claim for payment has been denied by the third party payer in accordance with this subsection may, in the discretion of a judge of the Superior Court, be permitted to refile the claim if the third party payer has not been substantially prejudiced thereby. Application to the court for permission to refile a claim shall be made within 14 days of notification of denial of payment and shall be made upon motion based upon affidavits showing sufficient reasons for the failure to file the claim with the third party payer within 180 days.

c. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any claims filed pursuant to P.L.1972, c. 70 (C.39:6A-1 et seq.).

d. A health care professional who violates the provisions of subsection a. of this section may be subject to a civil penalty of \$250 for each violation plus \$50 for each day after the 60th day that the provider fails to submit a claim. The penalty shall be sued for and collected by the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety pursuant to “the penalty enforcement law,” N.J.S.2A:58-1 et seq.

45:1-11. Violations; penalty

Any person violating this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

45:1-12. Podiatrist, optometrist or psychologist or professional service corporation; charge for completion of claim form for health insurance; fine; collection and enforcement

No podiatrist, optometrist or psychologist and no professional service corporation engaging in the practice of podiatry, optometry or psychology in this State shall charge a patient an extra fee for services rendered in completing a medical claim form in connection with a health insurance policy. Any person violating this act shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00 for each offense.

Such penalty shall be collected and enforced by summary proceedings pursuant to the Penalty Enforcement Law (N.J.S. 2A:58-1 et seq.). The Superior Court and municipal court shall have jurisdiction within its territory of such proceedings. Process shall be either in the nature of a summons or warrant and shall issue in the name of the State, upon the complaint of the State Board of Medical Examiners with respect to podiatrists, the New Jersey State Board of Optometry for optometrists or the State Board of Psychological Examiners for psychologists.

45:1-13. Repealed by L.1999, c. 403, § 12, eff. Jan. 18, 2000

45:1-14. Legislative findings and declarations; liberal construction of act

The Legislature finds and declares that effective implementation of consumer protection laws and the administration of laws pertaining to the professional and occupational boards located within the Division of Consumer Affairs require uniform investigative and enforcement powers and procedures and uniform standards for license revocation, suspension and other disciplinary proceedings by such boards. This act is deemed remedial, and the provisions hereof should be afforded a liberal construction.

45:1-15. Boards and professions or occupations regulated by or through such boards; application of act

The provisions of this act shall apply to the following boards and all professions or occupations regulated by, through or with the advice of those boards: the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy, the New Jersey State Board of Architects, the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Professional Planners, the State Board of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers, the State Board of Shorthand Reporting, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining Board, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the State Real Estate Appraiser Board, the State Board of Social Work Examiners, the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, the New Jersey Cemetery Board, the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners, the Occupational Therapy Advisory Council, the Electrologists Advisory Committee, the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee, the Fire Alarm, Burglar Alarm, and Locksmith Advisory Committee, the Home Inspection Advisory Committee, the Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy Examining Committee, and the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee.

45:1-15.1. Rules and regulations

Consistent with their enabling acts, P.L.1978, c. 73 (C.45:1-14 et seq.) and the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c. 410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the boards and others set forth in section 2 of P.L.1978, c. 73 (C.45:1-15) are authorized to adopt rules and regulations to serve the public health, safety and welfare.

55:1-16. Definitions

As used within this act the following words or terms shall have the indicated definition unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Board” means any professional or occupational licensing board designated in section 2 of this act.¹

“Director” means the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

“Person” means any natural person or his legal representative, partnership, corporation, company, trust, business entity or association, and any agent, employee, salesman, partner, officer, director, member, stockholder, associate, trustee or cestuis que trust thereof.

¹N.J.S.A. § 45:1-15.

45:1-17. Powers of Attorney General to implement act and administer law enforcement activities of boards

In implementing the provisions of this act and administering the law enforcement activities of those professional and occupational boards located within the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Attorney General may:

a. After advice to the board or boards in question of his intent to proceed under this section, and the specific action he intends to take, and the failure of such board or boards to take steps in accordance with the advice of the Attorney General within 30 days of receipt of such advice, promulgate rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of this act and the Administrative Procedure Act, P.L.1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.) governing the procedure for administrative hearings before all boards within the Division of Consumer Affairs. Such rules and regulations shall govern administrative complaints, answers thereto, issuance of subpoenas, appointment of hearing examiners, adjournments, submission of proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, the filing of briefs, and such other procedural aspects of administrative hearings before the boards as the Attorney General may deem necessary; provided, however, nothing herein authorized shall be construed to require the Attorney General to promulgate rules regarding prehearing investigative procedures.

b. After advice to the board or boards in question of his intent to proceed under this section, and the specific action he intends to take, and the failure of such board or boards to take steps in accordance with the advice of the Attorney General within 30 days of receipt of such advice, promulgate substantive rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of any statute governing the activities of any licensing agency, board or committee located within the Division of Consumer Affairs, which shall be limited to disciplinary matters and arbitrary restrictions on initial licensure. In addition to promulgating such rules and regulations, the Attorney General may direct that any proposed or existing regulation be amended, abandoned or repealed. Prior to the final adoption of any regulation affecting the activities of any professional or occupational licensing agency, board or committee located within the division and prior to the issuance of any directive to amend, abandon or repeal any regulation, the Attorney General or his designee shall first consult with the agency, board or committee whose activities are affected regarding the proposed action.

c. After a full consideration of all relevant facts and the applicable law, may direct the initiation of any appropriate enforcement action by a professional or occupational licensing board or set aside, modify or amend, as may be necessary, any action or decision of a licensing agency, board or committee located within the Division of Consumer Affairs; provided, however, no such action shall be directed by the Attorney General in reviewing the action or decision of an agency, board or committee unless such action or decision is contrary to applicable law.

45:1-18. Investigative powers of boards, director or attorney general

Whenever it shall appear to any board, the director or the Attorney General that a person has engaged in, or is engaging in any act or practice declared unlawful by a statute or regulation administered by such board, or when the board, the director or the Attorney General shall deem it to be in the public interest to inquire whether any such violation may exist, the board or the director through the Attorney General, or the Attorney General acting independently, may exercise any of the following investigative powers:

a. Require any person to file on such form as may be prescribed, a statement or report in writing under oath, or otherwise, as to the facts and circumstances concerning the rendition of any service or conduct of any sale incidental to the discharge of any act or practice subject to an act or regulation administered by the board;

- b. Examine under oath any person in connection with any act or practice subject to an act or regulation administered by the board;
- c. Inspect any premises from which a practice or activity subject to an act or regulation administered by the board is conducted;
- d. Examine any goods, ware or item used in the rendition of a practice or activity subject to an act or regulation administered by the board;
- e. Examine any record, book, document, account or paper prepared or maintained by or for any professional or occupational licensee in the regular course of practicing such profession or engaging in such occupation or any individual engaging in practices subject to an act or regulation administered by the board. Nothing in this subsection shall require the notification or consent of the person to whom the record, book, account or paper pertains, unless otherwise required by law;
- f. For the purpose of preserving evidence of an unlawful act or practice, pursuant to an order of the Superior Court, impound any record, book, document, account, paper, goods, ware, or item used, prepared or maintained by or for any board licensee in the regular course of practicing such profession or engaging in such occupation or any individual engaging in a practice or activity subject to an act or regulation administered by the board. In such cases as may be necessary, the Superior Court may, on application of the Attorney General, issue an order sealing items or material subject to this subsection; and
- g. Require any board licensee, permit holder or registered or certified person to submit to an assessment of skills to determine whether the board licensee, permit holder or registered or certified person can continue to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

In order to accomplish the objectives of this act or any act or regulation administered by a board, the Attorney General may hold such investigative hearings as may be necessary and the board, director or Attorney General may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of any person or the production of books, records or papers at any such hearing or inquiry.

45:1-19. Failure or refusal to file statement or report, refusal of access to premises or failure to obey subpoena; penalty

If any person shall fail or refuse to file any statement or report or refuse access to premises from which a licensed profession or occupation is conducted in any lawfully conducted investigative matter or fail to obey a subpoena issued pursuant to this act, the Attorney General may apply to the Superior Court and obtain an order:

- a. Adjudging such person in contempt of court; or
- b. Granting such other relief as may be required; or
- c. Suspending the license of any such person unless and until compliance with the subpoena or investigative demand is effected.

45:1-20. Compelling testimony or production of book, paper or document; immunity from prosecution

If any person shall refuse to testify or produce any book, paper, or other document in any proceeding under this act for the reason that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him may tend to incriminate him, convict him of a crime, or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture, and shall, notwithstanding, be directed to testify or to produce such book, paper, or document by the Attorney General, he shall comply with such direction.

A person who is entitled by law to, and does assert such privilege, and who complies with such direction of the Attorney General shall not thereafter be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture in any criminal proceeding which arises out of and relates to the subject matter of the proceeding. No person so testifying shall be exempt from prosecution or punishment for perjury or false swearing committed by him in giving such testimony or from any civil or administrative action arising from such testimony.

45:1-21. Grounds for refusal to admit to examination or denial, suspension or revocation of any certificate, registration or license; definitions

A board may refuse to admit a person to an examination or may refuse to issue or may suspend or revoke any certificate, registration or license issued by the board upon proof that the applicant or holder of such certificate, registration or license:

- a. Has obtained a certificate, registration, license or authorization to sit for an examination, as the case may be, through fraud, deception, or misrepresentation;
- b. Has engaged in the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation, false promise or false pretense;
- c. Has engaged in gross negligence, gross malpractice or gross incompetence which damaged or endangered the life, health, welfare, safety or property of any person;
- d. Has engaged in repeated acts of negligence, malpractice or incompetence;
- e. Has engaged in professional or occupational misconduct as may be determined by the board;
- f. Has been convicted of, or engaged in acts constituting, any crime or offense involving moral turpitude or relating adversely to the activity regulated by the board. For the purpose of this subsection a judgment of conviction or a plea of guilty, non vult, nolo contendere or any other such disposition of alleged criminal activity shall be deemed a conviction;
- g. Has had his authority to engage in the activity regulated by the board revoked or suspended by any other state, agency or authority for reasons consistent with this section;
- h. Has violated or failed to comply with the provisions of any act or regulation administered by the board;
- i. Is incapable, for medical or any other good cause, of discharging the functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare;
- j. Has repeatedly failed to submit completed applications, or parts of, or documentation submitted in conjunction with, such applications, required to be filed with the Department of Environmental Protection;
- k. Has violated any provision of P.L.1983, c. 320 (C.17:33A-1 et seq.) or any insurance fraud prevention law or act of another jurisdiction or has been adjudicated, in civil or administrative proceedings, of a violation of P.L.1983, c. 320 (C.17:33A-1 et seq.) or has been subject to a final order, entered in civil or administrative proceedings, that imposed civil penalties under that act against the applicant or holder;
- l. Is presently engaged in drug or alcohol use that is likely to impair the ability to practice the profession or occupation with reasonable skill and safety. For purposes of this subsection, the term "presently" means at this time or any time within the previous 365 days;
- m. Has prescribed or dispensed controlled dangerous substances indiscriminately or without good cause, or where the applicant or holder knew or should have known that the substances were to be used for unauthorized consumption or distribution;
- n. Has permitted an unlicensed person or entity to perform an act for which a license or certificate of registration or certification is required by the board, or aided and abetted an unlicensed person or entity in performing such an act;
- o. Advertised fraudulently in any manner.

For purposes of this act:

"Completed application" means the submission of all of the information designated on the checklist, adopted pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1991, c. 421 (C.13:1D-101), for the class or category of permit for which application is made.

“Permit” has the same meaning as defined in section 1 of P.L.1991, c. 421 (C.13:1D-101).

45:1-21.1. Annual summary of compliance information and attendance at continuing education seminars; costs; information deemed public records

a. A board obtaining information from the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1991, c. 418 (C. 13:1D-110) on the compliance of a member of a regulated profession with the requirements for completed applications of the department, shall annually develop a detailed written summary of the information gathered by the department pursuant to P.L.1991, c. 418 (C. 13:1D-110) regarding compliance with the department’s requirements for completed applications and attendance records for continuing education seminars required to be filed with the department pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c. 419 (C. 13:1D-117).

b. Any reasonable costs incurred in preparation of the report required pursuant to this section may be included in the charges authorized pursuant to P.L.1974, c. 46 (C. 45:1-3.2).

c. Information required to be compiled by a board pursuant to this section, shall be deemed to be public records subject to the requirements of P.L.1963, c. 73 (C. 47:1A-1 et seq.).

45:1-21.2. Suspension of certain licenses; hearing

The director or a board shall suspend, as appropriate, after a hearing, the license, registration or certification of any person who has been certified by a lender or guarantor and reported to the director or the board, as the case may be, for nonpayment or default of a State or federal direct or guaranteed educational loan. The license, registration or certification shall not be reissued until the person provides the director or board with a written release issued by the lender or guarantor stating that the person has cured the default or is making payments on the loan in accordance with a repayment agreement approved by the lender or guarantor. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for licensure, registration or certification during the suspension, reinstatement shall be automatic upon receipt of the notice and payment of any reinstatement fee the director or the board may impose.

45:1-22. Additional or alternative penalties to revocation, suspension or refusal to renew; temporary order suspending or limiting license; subpena

In addition or as an alternative, as the case may be, to revoking, suspending or refusing to renew any license, registration or certificate issued by it, a board may, after affording an opportunity to be heard:

a. Issue a letter of warning, reprimand, or censure with regard to any act, conduct or practice which in the judgment of the board upon consideration of all relevant facts and circumstances does not warrant the initiation of formal action;

b. Assess civil penalties in accordance with this act;

c. Order that any person violating any provision of an act or regulation administered by such board to cease and desist from future violations thereof or to take such affirmative corrective action as may be necessary with regard to any act or practice found unlawful by the board;

d. Order any person found to have violated any provision of an act or regulation administered by such board to restore to any person aggrieved by an unlawful act or practice, any moneys or property, real or personal, acquired by means of such act or practice; provided, however, no board shall order restoration in a dollar amount greater than those moneys received by a licensee or his agent or any other person violating the act or regulation administered by the board;

e. Order any person, as a condition for continued, reinstated or renewed licensure, to secure medical or such other professional treatment as may be necessary to properly discharge licensee functions;

f. Order any person, as a condition for continued, reinstated or renewed licensure, to submit to any medical or diagnostic testing and monitoring or psychological evaluation which may be required to evaluate whether continued practice may jeopardize the safety and welfare of the public;

g. Order any person, as a condition for continued, reinstated or renewed licensure, to submit to an assessment of skills to determine whether the licensee can continue to practice with reasonable skill and safety, and to take and successfully complete educational training determined by the board to be necessary;

h. Order any person, as a condition for continued, reinstated or renewed licensure, to submit to an assessment of skills to determine whether the licensee can continue to practice with reasonable skill and safety, and to submit to any supervision, monitoring or limitation on practice determined by the board to be necessary.

A board may, upon a duly verified application of the Attorney General that either provides proof of a conviction of a court of competent jurisdiction for a crime or offense involving moral turpitude or relating adversely to the regulated profession or occupation, or alleges an act or practice violating any provision of an act or regulation administered by such board, enter a temporary order suspending or limiting any license issued by the board pending plenary hearing on an administrative complaint; provided, however, no such temporary order shall be entered unless the application made to the board palpably demonstrates a clear and imminent danger to the public health, safety and welfare and notice of such application is given to the licensee affected by such order. If, upon review of the Attorney General's application, the board determines that, although no palpable demonstration of a clear and imminent danger has been made, the licensee's continued unrestricted practice pending plenary hearing may pose a risk to the public health, safety and welfare, the board may order the licensee to submit to medical or diagnostic testing and monitoring, or psychological evaluation, or an assessment of skills to determine whether the licensee can continue to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

In any administrative proceeding commenced on a complaint alleging a violation of an act or regulation administered by a board, such board may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of books, records, or documents at the hearing on the complaint.

45:1-23. Summary proceeding in Superior Court; injunction; orders necessary to prevent unlawful practice or remedy past unlawful activity

Whenever it shall appear to a board, the director or the Attorney General that a violation of any act, including the unlicensed practice of the regulated profession or occupation, or regulation administered by such board has occurred, is occurring, or will occur, the Attorney General, in addition to any other proceeding authorized by law, may seek and obtain in a summary proceeding in the Superior Court an injunction prohibiting such act or practice. In any such proceeding the court may assess a civil penalty in accordance with the provisions of this act, order restoration to any person in interest of any moneys or property, real or personal, acquired by means of an unlawful act or practice and may enter such orders as may be necessary to prevent the performance of an unlawful practice in the future and to fully remedy any past unlawful activity. In any action brought pursuant to this section, the court shall not suspend or revoke any license issued by a board.

45:1-24. Failure to comply with order of board directing payment of penalties or restoration of moneys or property; enforcement

Upon the failure of any person to comply within 10 days after service of any order of a board directing payment of penalties or restoration of moneys or property, the Attorney General or the secretary of such board may issue a certificate to the Clerk of the Superior Court that such person is indebted to the State for the payment of such penalty and the moneys or property ordered restored. A copy of such certificate shall be served upon the person against whom the order was entered. Thereupon the clerk shall immediately enter upon his record of docketed judgments the name of the person so indebted and of the State, a designation of the statute under which the penalty is imposed, the amount of the penalty imposed, and amount of moneys ordered restored, a listing of property ordered restored, and the date of the certification. Such entry shall have the same force and effect as the entry of a docketed judgment in the Superior Court, and the Attorney General shall have all rights and remedies of a judgment creditor in addition to exercising any other available remedies. Such entry, however, shall be without prejudice to the right of appeal to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court from the board's order.

An action to enforce the provisions of any order entered by a board or to collect any penalty levied thereby may be brought in any municipal court or the Superior Court in summary manner pursuant to the Penalty Enforcement Act, (N.J.S. 2A:58-1 et seq.) and the rules of court governing the collection of civil penalties. Process in such action shall be by summons or warrant, and in the event that the defendant fails to answer such action, the court shall issue a warrant for the defendant's arrest for the purpose of bringing such person before the court to satisfy any order entered.

45:1-25. Violations; civil penalty; action to collect or enforce

a. Any person who engages in any conduct in violation of any provision of an act or regulation administered by a board shall, in addition to any other sanctions provided herein, be liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for the first violation and not more than \$20,000 for the second and each subsequent violation. For the purpose of construing this section, each act in violation of any provision of an act or regulation administered by a board shall constitute a separate violation and shall be deemed a second or subsequent violation under the following circumstances:

- (1) an administrative or court order has been entered in a prior, separate and independent proceeding;
- (2) the person is found within a single proceeding to have committed more than one violation of any provision of an act or regulation administered by a board; or
- (3) the person is found within a single proceeding to have committed separate violations of any provision of more than one act or regulation administered by a board.

b. In lieu of an administrative proceeding or an action in the Superior Court, the Attorney General may bring an action in the name of any board for the collection or enforcement of civil penalties for the violation of any provision of an act or regulation administered by such board. Such action may be brought in summary manner pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c. 274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.) and the rules of court governing actions for the collection of civil penalties in the municipal court where the offense occurred. Process in such action may be by summons or warrant and in the event that the defendant in such action fails to answer such action, the court shall, upon finding an unlawful act or practice to have been committed by the defendant, issue a warrant for the defendant's arrest in order to bring such person before the court to satisfy the civil penalties imposed. In any action commenced pursuant to this section, the court may order restored to any person in interest any moneys or property acquired by means of an unlawful act or practice.

c. Any action alleging the unlicensed practice of a profession or occupation shall be brought pursuant to this section or, where injunctive relief is sought, by an action commenced in the Superior Court.

d. In any action brought pursuant to this act, a board or the court may order the payment of costs for the use of the State, including, but not limited to, costs of investigation, expert witness fees and costs, attorney fees and costs, and transcript costs.

45:1-26. Repeal of inconsistent acts and parts of acts

All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby superseded and repealed.

45:1-27. Severability

If any provision of this law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the law which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this law are severable.

45:1-28. Definitions

As used in this act:

"Applicant" means an applicant for licensure or other authorization to engage in a health care profession.

"Board" means a professional and occupational licensing board within the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

"Director" means the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

"Division" means the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

"Health care professional" means a health care professional who is licensed or otherwise authorized, pursuant to Title 45 or Title 52 of the Revised Statutes, to practice a health care profession that is regulated by one of the following boards or

by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs: the State Board of Medical Examiners, the New Jersey Board of Nursing, the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, the Board of Pharmacy of the State of New Jersey, the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Acupuncture Examining Board, the State Board of Physical Therapy, the State Board of Respiratory Care, the Orthotics and Prosthetics Board of Examiners, the State Board of Psychological Examiners, the State Board of Social Work Examiners, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee, the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, the Occupational Therapy Advisory Council or the Certified Psychoanalysts Advisory Committee.

Health care professional shall not include a nurse aide or personal care assistant who is required to undergo a criminal history record background check pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1997, c. 100 (C.26:2H-83) or a homemaker-home health aide who is required to undergo a criminal history record background check pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1997, c. 100 (C.45:11-24.3).

45:1-29. Criminal history information from FBI and State Police required before initial license issued

a. A professional and occupational licensing board within the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety or the director who regulates the practice of a health care professional, as applicable, shall not issue an initial license or other authorization to practice a health care profession that is regulated by that board or the director to any applicant therefor unless the board or director, as applicable, first determines, consistent with section 8 of P.L.1978, c. 73 (C.45:1-21), that no criminal history record information exists on file in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Identification Division, or in the State Bureau of Identification in the Division of State Police, which may disqualify the applicant from being licensed or otherwise authorized to practice as a health care professional.

45:1-30. Information supplied by applicant, exchange of information with other law enforcement agencies; notification upon receipt of information

a. An applicant who is required to undergo a criminal history record background check pursuant to section 2 of this act shall submit to the director that individual's name, address and fingerprints taken on standard fingerprint cards by a State or municipal law enforcement agency or by a private entity under contract with the State. The director is authorized to exchange fingerprint data with and receive criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Division of State Police for use in making the determinations required pursuant to this act.

b. Upon receipt of the criminal history record information for an applicant from the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Division of State Police, the director shall immediately notify the board, as applicable.

c. If an applicant refuses to consent to, or cooperate in, the securing of a criminal history record background check, the board or director, as applicable, shall not issue a license or other authorization to the applicant and shall notify the applicant of that denial.

45:1-31. Cost of criminal history record check

An applicant shall be required to assume the cost of the criminal history record background check conducted pursuant to sections 1 through 3 of this act and section 14 of P.L.1997, c. 100 (C.53:1-20.9a), in accordance with procedures determined by regulation of the director.

45:1-32. Rules and regulations

The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c. 410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

CHAPTER 14C PLUMBERS

45:14C-1. Short title

Sections 1 through 27 of this act¹ shall be known and may be cited as "The State Plumbing License Law of 1968."

¹N.J.S.A. §§ 45:14C-1 to 45:14C-27.

45:14C-2. Definitions

When used in this act,

(a) “Master plumber” means a person licensed pursuant to this amendatory and supplementary act who has the qualifications, training, experience and technical knowledge necessary to properly plan, lay out, install and repair plumbing apparatus and equipment and to supervise others in the performance of such work in accordance with standards, rules and regulations established by the State board;

(b) “State board” means the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1968, c. 362 (C. 45:14C-3);

(c) “Act” means this act and the rules and regulations adopted under it;

(d) “Bona fide representative” means a licensed master plumber who is the holder of not less than 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of stock in a corporation, or not less than 10% of the capital of a partnership, or not less than 10% of the ownership of any other firm or legal entity engaging in the business of plumbing contracting in the State of New Jersey;

(e) “Apprentice plumber” means any person other than a master plumber or journeyman plumber who as his principal occupation is engaged in learning and assisting in the installation of plumbing;

(f) “Journeyman plumber” means any person other than a master plumber or apprentice plumber who installs, alters, repairs and renovates plumbing in accordance with standards, rules and regulations established by the board and who works under the supervision of a master plumber;

(g) “Plumbing” means the practice, materials and fixtures used in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, repair and removal of all piping, plumbing fixtures, plumbing appliances and plumbing apparatus in connection with any of the following: sanitary drainage, storm facilities and building sewers to their respective final connection to an approved point of disposal, venting systems, public and private water supply systems of any premises to and within the property line of any building, structure or conveyance to their final connection with an approved supply system. Plumbing shall also mean the practice and materials used in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, repair or removal of storm water, refrigeration and air conditioning drains, liquid waste or sewage;

(h) “Plumbing contractor” means any licensed master plumber, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity which undertakes or offers to undertake for another the planning, laying out, supervising, installing or making of additions, alterations and repairs in the installation of plumbing. In order to act as “a plumbing contractor,” a licensed master plumber shall be the holder of not less than 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of stock in the corporation, or not less than 10% of the capital of the partnership, or not less than 10% of the ownership of any other firm or legal entity engaging in the business of plumbing contracting in the State and shall employ either journeymen plumbers or apprentice plumbers or both.

45:14C-3. State board of examiners of master plumbers; membership; terms; removal

There is created hereunder a State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers in the Department of Law and Public Safety, consisting of 7 citizens to be appointed by the Governor, without regard to political affiliation, and except as to members first appointed, for terms of 4 years and until the appointment of their successors. Of the members first appointed 2 shall be appointed for terms of 1 year, 2 for 2 years, 2 for 3 years and one for 4 years. Three members shall be master plumbers of at least 10 years experience, one shall be a local plumbing inspector who has held such appointment for at least 10 years, one shall be a journeyman plumber of at least 10 years experience and 2 shall be representatives of the public having no association with the plumbing industry.

No member shall be eligible for appointment for more than 2 terms. Appointments to fill vacancies on the board shall be made for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Members of the board shall be subject to removal by the Governor for cause.

45:14C-4. Compensation

Each member of the State board shall receive \$25.00 for each day of actual service in attending meetings of the board at which business is transacted and in addition shall be entitled to be reimbursed for his necessary traveling expenses; provided such compensation in any fiscal year shall not exceed \$1,000.00 per member.

45:14C-5. Repealed by L.1979, c. 432, § 6, eff. Feb. 14, 1980

45:14C-6. Organization of board; officers; executive secretary; clerical assistants; expenses and expenditures

The State board shall organize annually by the selection from among its members of a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary, subject to the approval of the Attorney General. Such officers shall so serve without additional compensation. The chairman, vice-chairman and secretary shall serve in such capacities for a period of 1 year or until their successors are selected. Vacancies in such offices shall be filled for the unexpired terms by the State board in the manner set forth above. The State board with the approval of the Attorney General is authorized to appoint an executive-secretary without regard to the provisions of Title 11, Civil Service¹ and such clerical assistants as may be required and within the limits of available appropriations and to fix their compensation. The State board is hereby authorized to incur such other necessary expenses, within available appropriation therefor, as may be required to carry out its functions and purpose. All moneys received by the State board shall be remitted to the State Treasury. All expenditures deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this act shall be paid by the State Treasurer from the license fees and other sources of income of the board, within the limits of available appropriations according to law, but in no event shall expenditures exceed the revenues of the board during any fiscal year.

¹Now Title 11A, Civil Service, § 11A:1-1 et seq.

45:14C-7. Rules and regulations

The State board may adopt, amend and promulgate such rules and regulations which may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; provided, however, that the board's jurisdiction shall not include the regulation or determination of matters relating to trade or craft jurisdiction or the determination of whether any particular class of employee is entitled to perform any particular work.

45:14C-8. Witnesses; oaths and affirmations

The State board, under the hand of its chairman and the seal of the State board, may subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance before it and may require the production of such papers or documents in any matter involving proceedings for the revocation, refusal to issue, or suspension of any State license issued hereunder. Any member of the State board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the State board.

45:14C-9. Records of proceedings

The State board shall keep a record of all proceedings conducted before it.

45:14C-10. Register of applications for licenses; contents

The State board shall keep a register of all applications for State licenses, which register shall show: (a) name, age and residence of the applicant, (b) date of application, (c) principal place of business of applicant, (d) name and address of employer firm or corporation, if not self-employed, (e) whether or not an examination was required, (f) whether the applicant was accepted or rejected, (g) the number of the license, if issued, (h) the date of the action of the State board, (i) any other information prescribed by the State board.

45:14C-10.1. Register of journeymen and apprentice plumbers

The State board shall keep a register of all applications by individuals registering as journeymen plumbers, and apprentice plumbers enrolled in a plumbing apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor, which register shall include the following information: (1) name, address, telephone number, age and social security number of the apprentice or journeyman plumber; (2) date and type of registration application; (3) name, address and telephone number of the plumbing contractor employing the apprentice or journeyman plumber; (4) whether the

applicant was accepted or rejected, and in the case of a rejection, the reasons for that action; (5) the registration number, if issued; (6) the date of the action by the State board; and (7) any other information the State board deems necessary.

45:14C-10.2. Application for registration as journeymen or apprentice plumbers

On and after the effective date of P.L.1998, c. 96, any person desiring to register as an apprentice or journeyman plumber shall make application to the State board to be so registered and shall pay all the fees required in connection therewith, which fees shall be established, prescribed or changed by the State board to the extent necessary to defray all proper expenses incurred by the State board to administer the provisions of this act. However, fees shall not be fixed at a level that will raise amounts in excess of the amount estimated to be so required.

45:14C-11. Application; fees

On and after the effective date of this act, any person desiring to obtain a State master plumber's license shall make application to the State board to be licensed as described herein and shall pay all the fees required in connection therewith, and be examined as herein required.

45:14C-12. Repealed by L.1987, c. 442, B 10, eff. Jan. 15, 1988

45:14C-12.1. Issuance of state master plumber's license without examination; previous holders

The State board shall, upon application to it and payment of the prescribed fee, issue a State master plumber's license without examination to any person who held a plumber's license issued by a municipality, local board of health or other agency for at least five years prior to the effective date of this 1987 amendatory and supplementary act and who demonstrates to the board's satisfaction that the experience qualifies the applicant to fulfill the responsibilities of a master plumber. Application pursuant to this section shall be made within six months of the effective date of this amendatory and supplementary act.

45:14C-12.2. Plumber's license; prohibition of issuance by local authorities

On or after the effective date of this 1987 amendatory and supplementary act, a municipality, local board of health or any other agency shall not issue any plumber's license.

45:14C-12.3. Master plumbers; licenses required under L.1987, c. 442; additional penalty

a. On or after the effective date of this 1987 amendatory and supplementary act, a person shall not work as a master plumber or use the title or designation of master plumber unless licensed pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act.

b. On or after the effective date of this 1987 amendatory and supplementary act, a person, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall not engage in the business of plumbing contracting or advertise in any manner as a plumbing contractor or use the title or designation of plumbing contractor unless authorized to act as a plumbing contractor pursuant to the provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act. In addition to any penalty authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 12 of P.L.1978, c. 73 (C.45:1-25), any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity which violates any provision of this subsection shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

45:14C-12.4. Single family homeowner; inapplicability of act

The provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act shall not apply to a single family home owner who performs plumbing work on his own dwelling.

45:14C-13. Repealed by L.1987, c. 442, B 10, eff. Jan. 15, 1988

45:14C-14. Regulation by municipalities

This act shall not deny to any municipality the power to inspect plumbing work or plumbing equipment or the power to regulate the standards and manner in which plumbing work shall be done, but no municipality, local board of health or other agency shall require any master plumber licensed under this act or any master plumber or plumbing contractor authorized to engage in the business of plumbing contracting under this act to obtain any additional license, apply for or take any examination or pay any licensing fee.

45:14C-15. Applications for examinations; qualifications

Not less than 30 days and no more than 60 days prior to the date set for the examination for a master plumber's State license, every person, except as herein provided, desiring to apply for a State license, who shall meet the qualifications as set forth herein, shall deliver to the State board, personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, a certified check or money order payable to the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey in the required amount as set forth herein, together with such written application as shall be required by the State board, completed as therein described, and together with proof of qualifications as described hereunder.

The qualifications which shall be met and satisfied shall be as follows:

- a. The person shall be 21 or more years of age and a citizen or legal resident of the United States; and
- b. (1) The person shall have been engaged or employed in the plumbing trade for a period of five years preceding the date of his application for a State license. One of the five years shall have been spent while engaged or employed as a journeyman plumber. Four years of the five years shall have been spent in a plumbing apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor, with proof of passage and successful completion of this program while actively engaged or employed as a plumbing apprentice. For a period of four years following the effective date of P.L.1998, c. 96, each year of employment in the plumbing trade or enrollment in a formal plumbing apprenticeship program shall be accepted by the State board in lieu of one year's enrollment in a plumbing apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor, up to a maximum total credit of four years; or
- (2) The person shall have been awarded a bachelor's degree in mechanical, plumbing or sanitary engineering from an accredited college or university in the United States which the board finds acceptable and in addition shall have been engaged or employed in the practical work of installing plumbing systems for one year as an apprentice or journeyman plumber.

Proof of compliance with such qualifications or those in lieu thereof shall be submitted to the State board in writing, sworn to by the applicant, and such written proof shall be accompanied by two recent photographs of the applicant.

45:14C-16. Examinations; fees

(a) Every State master plumber's license examination shall be substantially uniform and shall be designed so as to establish the competence and qualifications of the applicant to perform the type of work and business as described by this act. The examination may be theoretical or practical in nature, or both.

(b) The examination shall be held at least 4 times a year, at Trenton or such other place as the State board shall deem necessary. Public notice of the time and place of the examination shall be given.

(c) No person who has failed the examination shall be eligible to be reexamined for a period of 6 months from the date of the examination failed by such person.

(d) The following shall be the fees charged by the State board:

First application for master plumber's license	\$100.00
Annual renewal of master plumber's State license	\$50.00
Re-examination for master plumber's State examination	\$35.00

Any licensed master plumber, however, who serves as a plumbing inspector pursuant to the "State Uniform Construction Code Act," and who presents satisfactory evidence to the State board indicating same, shall not be required to pay the master plumber's license renewal fee; provided, however, that said license shall be invalid during such period of service as plumbing inspector. Upon termination of service as a plumbing inspector, the licensee shall present satisfactory evidence to the State board indicating same, whereupon the master plumber's license shall become valid, subject to other requirements of this act.

45:14C-17. Issuance of license without examination

The State board shall, upon application to it and the payment of the prescribed fee, issue a State master plumber's license without examination to any person who, within 6 months following the effective date of this act, submits satisfactory evidence that he has been employed or engaged in the business of plumbing for 5 years prior to the date of his application for a State license. The persons entitled to State license under this provision of this act shall comply with the remaining provisions of this act.

45:14C-18. Expiration of license; renewal; exceptions

Every State license issued hereunder shall automatically expire on June 30 following the date of its issuance. Licenses may be renewed annually by the State board upon written application of the holder and payment of the prescribed fee and renewal of required bond. Such license may be renewed without the holder having to be re-examined, provided said application for renewal is made within 30 days next preceding or following the scheduled expiration date. Any applicant for renewal making application at any time subsequent to the 30 days next following the scheduled expiration date may be required by the State board to be re-examined, and such person shall not continue to act as a State licensed master plumber, as described in this act, and no firm, corporation or other legal entity for which such person is the bona fide representative shall operate thereafter under a State license in the plumbing business, as described in this act, until a valid State license has been secured or is held by a bona fide representative.

Any State license expiring while the holder thereof is outside the continental limits of the United States in connection with any project undertaken by the Government of the United States, or while in the services of the Armed Forces of the United States, shall be renewed without such holder being required to be re-examined, upon payment of the prescribed fee at any time within 4 months after such person's return to the United States or discharge from the armed forces, whichever is later.

45:14C-18.1. Continuing education requirements for license renewal of master plumbers

The State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers shall require each master plumber, as a condition for biennial license renewal pursuant to section 18 of P.L.1968, c. 362 (C. 45:14C-18), to complete any continuing education requirements imposed by the board pursuant to section 2 of this act.¹

¹N.J.S.A. 45:14C-18.2.

45:14C-18.2. Duties of board regarding continuing plumbing education

a. The board shall:

(1) Establish standards for continuing plumbing education, including the subject matter and content of courses of study, the selection of instructors, and the number and type of continuing education credits required of a licensed master plumber as a condition for biennial license renewal, except that the number of credits required shall not exceed five in any biennial license period.

(2) Approve educational programs offering credit towards the continuing plumbing education requirements;
and

(3) Approve other equivalent educational programs, and shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory proof of the completion of these programs.

b. In the case of education courses and programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to one credit.

45:14C-18.3. Waiver of continuing education requirements

The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for continuing plumbing education on an individual basis for reasons of hardship such as illness or disability, retirement of the license or other good cause.

45:14C-18.4. Continuing plumbing education credits not required for initial renewal of license

The board shall not require completion of continuing plumbing education credits for an initial renewal of license.

45:14C-18.5. Carry over of excess credits to next biennial licensure period

In the event a master plumber completes a number of continuing education credit hours in excess of the number required by the board pursuant to section 2 of this act,¹ the board may allow that those credits be carried over to satisfy the master plumber's continuing education requirement for the next biennial licensure period, but shall not be applicable thereafter.

45:14C-19. Reciprocity with other States

The State board may in its discretion grant State licenses without examination to applicants so licensed by other States; provided that equal reciprocity is provided for New Jersey master plumbers by law of such applicant's domiciliary State and provided further that such sister State's standards are equal to or comparable to those of this State.

45:14C-20. Firm, corporation or other legal entity operating without representative

No firm, corporation or other legal entity operating under and by virtue of this act shall be denied the privilege of conducting and continuing the business of plumbing, by reason of the death, illness or other substantial disability of the bona fide representative of such firm, corporation or other entity, provided (a) such firm, corporation or other entity has complied with the other provisions of this act, and (b) that such firm, corporation or other entity maintains a place of business within this State, and (c) another bona fide representative of such entity obtains for a State license within 6 months from the date of such death, illness or disability. The State board may promulgate additional regulations governing the management and operation of such an entity during that period of time when such entity shall be in operation without having a bona fide representative.

45:14C-21. Nontransferability and nonassignability of licenses

All State licenses issued hereunder shall be nontransferable and nonassignable; and at a hearing held before the State board, any license which shall have been found to have been so transferred or assigned shall be suspended or revoked by the State board upon due notice to the holder thereof. Such hearing and notice shall be conducted in accordance with the terms of this act.

45:14C-22, 45:14C-23. Repealed by L.1979, c. 432, § 1, 6, eff. Feb. 14, 1980

45:14C-24. Repealed by L.1987, c. 442, § 10, eff. Jan. 15, 1988

45:14C-25. Repealed by L.1979, c. 432, § 1, eff. Feb. 14, 1980

45:14C-26. Bonds

In addition to such other bonds as may be required pursuant to contract, no master plumber who is the holder of a license under the provisions of this act shall undertake to do any plumbing work in the State of New Jersey or any political subdivision thereof unless and until he shall have first entered into a bond in favor of the State of New Jersey in the sum of \$3,000.00 executed by a surety company authorized to transact business in the State of New Jersey, approved by the Department of Banking and Insurance and to be conditioned on the faithful performance of the provisions of this act. No municipality shall require any similar bond from any master plumber licensed under this act. The board shall by rule and regulation provide who shall be eligible to receive the financial protection afforded by the bond required to be filed hereunder. The aforesaid bond shall be for the term of 12 months and shall be renewed at each expiration for a similar period.

45:14C-27. Severability

The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision of this act, or any part thereof, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held unconstitutional, the remaining provisions, and parts thereof, and application of such provisions, or part thereof, to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

13:32-2.1 Eligibility for examinations

(a) To be eligible to take the plumbing license examination an applicant shall:

1. Be 21 years of age or older; and
2. Have completed the experience requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.2.

(b) An applicant for the plumbing licensing examination shall submit to the Board:

1. A completed application for examination, on a form provided by the Board, including a full street name and number. An application containing only a post office box number as a mailing address shall not be considered a complete application;
2. Proof that the applicant has met the experience requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.2; and
3. The application fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1.

(c) After the Board has reviewed the information required in (b) above, the Board shall send a letter that informs the applicant whether he or she is eligible to take the licensing examination required by N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.4 and, if deemed eligible, of the time and place of examination.

13:32-2.2 Experience requirements

(a) For purposes of this section, “practical hands-on experience” means experience in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, repair and removal of piping, plumbing fixtures, plumbing appliances and plumbing apparatus as defined in N.J.S.A. 45:14C-2(g). Practical hands-on experience does not include time spent in performing managerial tasks such as supervising, engineering, estimating, or time spent performing tasks which do not constitute the practice of plumbing as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:32-1.3.

(b) Applicants for examination for a license as a master plumber shall present proof to the Board that he or she:

1. Has completed a four year apprenticeship program approved by both the United States Department of Labor and a Federally certified state agency, and has completed one year of practical hands-on experience as a journeyman plumber; or
2. Has been awarded a bachelor’s degree in mechanical, plumbing or sanitary engineering from a college or university accredited by a regional accreditation agency recognized by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation or the United States Department of Education, and has completed one year of practical hands-on experience as a journeyman plumber.

13:32-2.3 Examinations

(a) Examinations shall be prepared and administered by Experior Assessments, LLC., or its successor, but no license shall be granted except by the Board. The Board chairman may designate members of the Board to oversee the administration of the examination.

(b) Examinations shall be held at least four times annually and at such additional times as the Board may determine.

(c) Examinations shall consist of three parts:

1. Written examination based on the National Standard Plumbing Code as adopted by the State of New Jersey pursuant to the Uniform Construction Code Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119 et seq.;
2. Practical examination; and
3. Written examination of laws and regulations governing the occupation and business of plumbing.

(d) In order to pass the examination an applicant must receive a minimum grade

of 70 in each of the three areas outlined in (c) above.

13:32-2.4 Failure of examination; when retaking permitted

(a) An applicant who has failed the plumbing licensing examination may review his or her examination upon written request to Experior Assessments, LLC., or its successors, and payment to the testing service of its review fee.

(b) No person who has failed the examination shall be eligible to be reexamined for a period of six months from the date of the examination filed by such person.

13:32-2.5 Licensure

(a) After an applicant has successfully passed the licensing examination, he or she shall submit to the Board:

1. A surety bond in the sum of \$3,000 as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:14C-26;
2. A completed application for a pressure seal; and
3. The licensing fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1.

13:32-2.6 Renewal of license

(a) Licenses shall be renewed biennially on a form provided by the Board. Each applicant for renewal shall attest that the continuing education requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:32-6.1 have been completed during the prior biennial period.

(b) The Board shall send a notice of renewal to each licensed master plumber, at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the license. If the notice to renew is not sent at least 60 days prior to the expiration date, no monetary penalties or fines shall apply to the holder for failure to renew.

(c) The licensed master plumber shall submit the renewal application and pay the renewal fee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1 prior to the date of expiration of the license. If the licensed master plumber does not renew the license prior to its expiration date, the licensed master plumber may renew the license no later than 30 days after its expiration date by submitting a renewal application and paying a renewal fee and a late fee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1. A licensed master plumber who fails to renew the license within 30 days after the expiration date of the license shall be suspended without a hearing.

(d) A person who continues to practice or hold him or herself out as a licensed master plumber after being suspended shall be deemed to have committed unlicensed practice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:14C-12.3, even if no notice of suspension has been provided to the person.

(e) A person seeking reinstatement within five years following the suspension of a license shall submit the following to the Board:

1. A completed reinstatement application;
2. Payment of all past delinquent renewal fees as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1;
3. Payment of a reinstatement fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1;
4. A certification verifying completion of the continuing education credits required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-6.1 for each biennial renewal period the license is suspended; and
5. An affidavit of employment listing each job held during the period of suspension which includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of each employer.

(f) A person seeking reinstatement after more than five years following the suspension of a license shall successfully complete the examination required for initial licensure as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-2.3 and shall submit:

1. A completed reinstatement application;
2. Payment of all past delinquent renewal fees as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1;
3. Payment of a reinstatement fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1; and
4. An affidavit of employment listing each job held during the period of suspension which includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of each employer.

(g) Renewal applications for all licensed master plumbers shall provide the applicant with the option of either active or inactive renewal. Applicants electing to renew as inactive shall not practice or hold themselves out to the public as licensed master plumbers. A licensed master plumber renewing as inactive shall submit to the Board:

1. A completed renewal application; and
2. The pressure seal.

(h) Upon application to the Board, the Board may permit an applicant who has been on inactive status to return to active status provided such applicant completes the continuing education credits that are required per biennial period for each biennial period that the applicant is on inactive status and the applicant pays the renewal fee as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1. The Board shall return the licensed master plumber's pressure seal when the licensed master plumber returns to active status.

SUBCHAPTER 3. IDENTIFICATION OF LICENSEES; BONA FIDE REPRESENTATIVE; SUPERVISION

13:32-3.1 Identification of licensed master plumber; vehicles, stationery; advertising

(a) All commercial vehicles used in the practice of State-licensed master plumbing shall be marked on both sides with the following information:

1. The name of the licensed master plumber in lettering at least one inch in height;
2. The words "Plumbing license number" or "Plumbing Lic. #" followed by the license number of the owner or qualified bona fide representative in lettering at least one inch in height; and
3. The name of the owner or lessee of the vehicle and the municipality from which the licensed master plumber practices or where the licensed master plumber has a principal office in lettering at least three inches in height.
 - i. Where available space for lettering is limited, either by design of the vehicle or by the presence of other legally specified identification markings, making strict compliance with (a)3 above impractical, the size of the lettering shall be as close to three inches high as is possible within the limited space, provided the name is clearly visible and readily identifiable.

(b) All business correspondence, invoices and stationery shall display:

1. The name of the licensed master plumber; and
2. The words "Plumbing license number" or "Plumbing Lic. #" followed by the license number of the owner or qualified bona fide representative; and
3. The business address, including the street name and number of the owner or qualified bona fide representative.

(c) All advertising shall include:

1. The name of the licensed master plumber;
2. The business address, including the street name and number of the owner or qualified bona fide representative; and

3. The words “Plumbing license number” or “Plumbing Lic. #” followed by the license number of the owner or qualified bona fide representative.

(d) Every State-licensed master plumber whose name, office address, place of practice or license number appears or is mentioned in any advertisement of any kind or character shall be presumed to have caused, permitted, or approved the advertising and shall be personally responsible for its content and character.

(e) If a plumbing contractor intends to subcontract, in a calendar year, more than one-third of the work which it contracts to perform, or subcontracted in the previous calendar year more than one-third of the work which it contracted to perform, all advertising by the plumbing contractor shall state: “A substantial part of the work which we undertake may be performed by independent licensed plumbing subcontractors.”

13:32-3.2 Bona fide representative; reporting responsibilities

(a) A licensed master plumber seeking to act as a bona fide representative for any firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity contemplated by N.J.S.A. 45:14C-2 shall comply with the following within 30 days of assuming the role of a bona fide representative:

1. Register with the Board, providing the name of the plumbing contractor, its business address and if the plumbing contractor is a corporation, the names of the officers of record;

2. Attest to the bona fide representative’s ownership interest in the plumbing contractor as follows:

i. If a licensed master plumber claims to hold 10 percent or more but less than 50 percent of the issued and outstanding stock or capital of the plumbing contractor, the licensed master plumber shall provide the Board with a written affidavit which states the percentage of outstanding shares held by the licensed master plumber. The affidavit shall be executed by the corporate secretary or other appropriate representative of the plumbing contractor;

ii. If a licensed master plumber claims to hold 50 percent or more of the issued and outstanding stock or capital of the plumbing contractor, the licensed master plumber shall provide a written affidavit which states the percentage of outstanding shares held by the licensed master plumber upon a request by the Board. The affidavit shall be executed by the corporate secretary or other appropriate representative of the plumbing contractor;

3. Provide to the Board proof that the plumbing contractor has consented that the bona fide representative will act as the agent for service of process within this State. Such proof shall be in writing and on a form provided by the Board; and

4. Provide to the Board the acceptance of liability by the plumbing contractor for any monetary penalty, monies to be paid for restoration to consumers of fees paid for services or for delays suffered by consumers and costs assessed against the bona fide representative while acting within the scope of his or her employment on behalf of the plumbing contractor. Such acceptance of liability shall be in writing and on a form provided by the Board.

(b) In order to evaluate the claims relating to the bona fide representatives ownership interest in the plumbing contractor pursuant to (a)2 above, the Board, at any time, may request that the bona fide representative provide any Federal, State or local government tax documentation which the plumbing contractor is required to file with the governmental tax authorities.

(c) (Reserved)

(d) If the bona fide representative for any firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity contemplated by N.J.S.A. 45:14C-2 is unable to perform the duties of a bona fide representative because of death, illness or disability, the firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity may continue to operate for six months without a bona fide representative provided that a licensed master plumber supervises all work to be conducted in the same manner as required by a bona fide representative pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-3.3(a)3 and the licensed master plumber and the firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity notify the Board within 10 days after the death, illness or disability of the bona fide representative.

13:32-3.3 Bona fide representative responsibilities

(a) A bona fide representative registered with the Board pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-3.2 shall:

1. Give notice to the Board in writing concerning any change in the name or address of the entity within 10 days of the change.
2. Secure or instruct an authorized employee, or for the purpose of this section only, an independent contractor licensed as a master plumber, to secure all necessary permits as may be required by State and local law for the performance of plumbing work to be performed by the plumbing contractor for which the licensed master plumber acts as a qualified bona fide representative. In making an application for permit issuance, the authorized employee or independent plumbing contractor shall have in his or her possession a letter authorizing him or her to make the application. A letter of authorization may authorize a permit application for a specific period of time, not to exceed 60 days, and shall have affixed to it the seal of the bona fide representative. In all circumstances, the permit shall be signed by a licensed master plumber and all work shall be supervised in the manner set forth in (a)3 below;
3. Supervise in the manner described in (a)3i through iv below the performance of all plumbing work performed by the plumbing contractor for which the licensed master plumber acts as the bona fide representative. Such supervision shall assure the effective compliance with State and local plumbing codes and the performance of work in accordance with proper plumbing practice;
 - i. If the person performing the work is a New Jersey licensed master plumber, the bona fide representative shall require at the beginning of the job an initial report on the work to be performed and upon completion of the job a final report on the work performed;
 - ii. If the person performing the work is a supervisory journeyman, the bona fide representative or a New Jersey licensed master plumber employed by the bona fide representative shall maintain daily contact with the supervisory journeyman either directly, by telephone or through writing. Any such contact shall be recorded by and maintained in the files of the bona fide representative or the New Jersey licensed master plumber employed by the bona fide representative;
 - iii. If the person performing the work is a journeyman, the bona fide representative, a New Jersey licensed master plumber employed by the bona fide representative or the supervisory journeyman shall maintain daily contact with the journeyman either directly, by telephone or through writing and, where the work requires a plumbing permit, shall inspect the work upon completion. Any such contact shall be recorded by the bona fide representative, the New Jersey licensed master plumber employed by the bona fide representative or the supervisory journeyman; and
 - iv. If the person performing the work is an apprentice, the bona fide representative shall ensure constant on-site supervision by a New Jersey licensed master plumber employed by the bona fide representative or a supervisory journeyman during all times that plumbing services are being performed;
4. Be responsible for any and all violations of N.J.S.A. 45:14C-1 et seq. committed by employees of the plumbing contractor for which he or she is serving as a bona fide representative if said violations were committed during the course of work which he or she was required to supervise;
5. Serve as a bona fide representative for only one plumbing contractor;
6. Maintain a place of business in the State of New Jersey; and
7. Provide each supervisory journeyman of the plumbing contractor that performs plumbing work with an identification card that includes:
 - i. The name of the supervisory journeyman;
 - ii. The name and address of the plumbing contractor;
 - iii. The name and license number of the bona fide representative;

iv. The seal of the bona fide representative; and

v. The issue and expiration dates of the identification card. The expiration date shall not exceed one year from the date of issue.

(b) Nothing herein shall preclude the Board from proceeding against both the bona fide representative for an entity or any other licensed master plumber employed by such an entity who can be shown to have violated the Board's enabling legislation or any regulation adopted thereunder. Nothing shall preclude any person entitled to maintain an action on a bond from proceeding pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-4.3 against the bona fide representative and any other licensed master plumber who has failed to perform the duties required by N.J.S.A. 45:14C-1 et seq.

(c) The bona fide representative of any plumbing contractor which contracts to provide plumbing services to a consumer and wishes to subcontract that plumbing work to another plumbing contractor shall:

1. Subcontract only to a plumbing contractor who is either a sole proprietor or which has a bona fide representative who is registered with the Board. The bona fide representative for the original plumbing contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that the subcontractor has a registered bona fide representative;

2. Require of the subcontractor that a copy of any permit applications, permits and changes in application or permit shall be delivered to the original plumbing contractor within five business days of the date the application or permit is filed;

3. Notify the consumer, prior to the beginning of any work, that the work has been subcontracted to another licensed master plumber or legally qualified plumbing contractor and provide the consumer with the name, address and telephone number of the subcontractor and the name and license number of the subcontractor's bona fide representative;

4. Advise the consumer prior to the beginning of any work that he or she has the right to terminate the contract prior to the beginning of any work because of the subcontracting;

5. Notify the consumer that the original contractor as well as the subcontractor remain liable for any defects, damages or other losses which may result from the negligence, misconduct or insolvency of the subcontractor;

6. Require that the subcontractor immediately notify the original contractor of any complaints by the consumer or the consumer's representative or by any governmental official; and

7. Supervise the work of the bona fide representative for the subcontractor in the same manner as required by (a)3i above.

(d) The bona fide representative shall have sufficient knowledge of the plumbing contractor's bookkeeping system and financial accounts to inform the Board, upon request by the Board, regarding the plumbing contractor's price-setting, billings, costs, subcontractors, overhead costs and profits.

13:32-3.4 Supervision

Any plumbing work that a licensed master plumber agrees to perform, that has not been subcontracted to another licensed master plumber, shall be performed only by the licensed master plumber or the employees of the licensed master plumber or the plumbing contractor.

SUBCHAPTER 4. MISCELLANEOUS

13:32-4.1 Requirement of pressure seal; penalties for misuse; return of pressure seal

(a) At the time of the issuance of the license the Board shall furnish a seal to the licensed master plumber.

(b) The seal shall be used exclusively by the licensed master plumber in the conduct of the plumbing business practice. The licensed master plumber shall impress the seal upon all applications for plumbing permits.

(c) Use of a seal by any person other than the State licensed master plumber to whom it was issued or the securing of a plumbing permit for an unlicensed person shall be deemed to be the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception,

misrepresentation or false pretense. Such conduct may be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of an unauthorized user if he or she is already licensed by the Board. With respect to an unlicensed user, such conduct shall be grounds for the refusal to issue a State license at any point in the future. Nothing herein shall be deemed to preclude a bona fide representative from securing a plumbing permit for the plumbing contractor he or she represents.

(d) A licensed master plumber who willfully or negligently allows an unlicensed or unauthorized person to use his or her seal shall be subject to such penalties and sanctions as shall be imposed by the Board pursuant to authority granted by N.J.S.A. 45:14C-1 and 45:1-14 et seq.

(e) A licensed master plumber who fails to renew the license in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1 or who has had his or her license suspended or revoked for any reason shall return the pressure seal to the Board within 30 days of the suspension, revocation or lapse of license.

(f) A licensed master plumber who no longer possesses a pressure seal due to theft, loss or other cause, shall replace the seal by submitting to the Board:

1. A notarized letter, detailing why the licensed master plumber no longer possesses the pressure seal; and
2. The replacement pressure seal fee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1.

13:32-4.2 Requirement of identification card

(a) At the time of the biennial renewal of the license, the Board shall furnish a wallet size identification card to every licensed master plumber. The card shall be used exclusively by the licensed master plumber in the conduct of his or her practice. A licensed master plumber is required to present the identification card upon request when applying for plumbing permits.

(b) Use of an identification card by any person, other than the licensed master plumber to whom the identification card is issued or by the agent authorized to act on behalf of the licensed master plumber, shall be deemed to be the use or employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation or false pretense. Such conduct shall be unlawful and may be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of the unauthorized user if he or she is already licensed by the Board. With respect to an unlicensed user, such conduct shall be grounds for the refusal to issue a State license in the future.

(c) A licensed master plumber who willfully or negligently allows an unlicensed or unauthorized person to use his or her identification card shall be deemed to have engaged in occupational misconduct and shall be subject to such penalties and sanctions as shall be imposed by the Board pursuant to authority granted by N.J.S.A. 45:14C-1 and 45:1-14 et seq.

13:32-4.3 Actions on the surety bond

(a) Any person, partnership or corporation including any political subdivision of State government who has been injured, aggrieved or damaged through the failure of a licensed master plumber to perform the duties required by N.J.S.A. 45:14C-1 et seq. or any rule of the Board shall be eligible to receive the financial protection of, and may maintain an action on the surety bond.

13:32-4.4 Change of address; service of process

(a) Every licensed master plumber shall notify the Board in writing of the licensed master plumber's office address. Every licensed master plumber shall notify the Board in writing of any change in his or her residence or business within 10 days after such change.

(b) Service of an administrative complaint or other process initiated by the Board, the Attorney General or the Division of Consumer Affairs at the licensed master plumber's address on file with the Board shall be deemed adequate notice for the commencement of any inquiry or disciplinary proceeding against the licensed master plumber.

13:32-4.5 Unconscionable pricing

(a) A licensed master plumber of the Board shall not charge an excessive price for services. A price is excessive when, after review of the facts, a licensed master plumber of ordinary prudence would be left with a definite and firm conviction that the price is so high as to be manifestly unconscionable or overreaching under the circumstances.

(b) Factors which may be considered in determining whether a price is excessive include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The time and effort required;
2. The novelty or difficulty of the job;
3. The skill required to perform the job properly;
4. Any special conditions placed upon the performance of the job by the person or entity for which the work is being performed;
5. The experience, reputation and ability of the licensed master plumber to perform the services; and
6. The price customarily charged in the locality for similar services.

(c) Charging an excessive price shall constitute occupational misconduct within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and may subject the licensed master plumber to disciplinary action.

SUBCHAPTER 5. FEES

13:32-5.1 Fee schedule

(a) The following fees shall be charged by the Board:

1. Application fee without prior registration (non-refundable)	\$100.00
2. Application fee with prior registration (non-refundable)	\$50.00
3. Initial license fee:	
i. If paid during the first year of a biennial renewal period	\$160.00
ii. If paid during the second year of a biennial renewal period	\$80.00
4. License renewal fee, biennial	\$160.00
5. Registration as an apprentice (non-refundable)	\$50.00
6. Registration as a journeyman without prior registration (non-refundable)	\$75.00
7. Registration as a journeyman with prior registration (non-refundable)	\$50.00
8. Late renewal fee	\$50.00
9. Reinstatement fee	\$150.00
10. Replacement seal press	\$40.00
11. Duplicate license fee	\$25.00
12. Replacement wall certificate	\$40.00
13. Verification of licensure	\$25.00
14. Continuing education sponsor application fee	\$100.00

SUBCHAPTER 6. CONTINUING EDUCATION

13:32-6.1 License renewal, continuing education requirement

(a) Every licensee shall successfully complete five credits of continuing education at an approved course per biennial period. Licensees applying for their first biennial renewal are exempt from this continuing education requirement.

(b) A licensee shall indicate on the license renewal form that he or she has completed the continuing education requirements required by this subchapter. Failure to meet the continuing education requirements as set forth in this subchapter or the falsification of any information submitted with the renewal application may result in an appearance before the Board, or the imposition of disciplinary sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 et seq.

(c) Every licensee shall maintain, for a period of four years, a record of all verification of attendance forms for all continuing education courses the licensee has completed. Licensees who teach a continuing education course during a biennial period shall maintain, for a four year period, records which indicate that the licensee has taught a Board approved continuing education course.

(d) The Board may review the records of any licensee, at any time, in order to ensure that the licensee has complied with the continuing education requirements.

13:32-6.2 Continuing education sponsors; Board approval; duties

(a) All sponsors of continuing education courses shall obtain Board approval prior to offering a continuing education course for an upcoming biennial period. The Board shall maintain a list of approved courses at the Board offices and shall furnish this information to licensees upon request.

(b) A sponsor seeking Board approval shall appear before the Board and submit, prior to that appearance, the following:

1. Detailed descriptions of course content and estimated hours of instruction;
2. Curriculum vitae of each instructor, including specific background which qualifies the individual as an instructor in specific areas; and
3. The continuing education sponsor application fee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:32-5.1(a)14.

(c) The sponsor of a continuing education course shall furnish each attendee a verification of attendance, which shall include the following:

1. The title, date and location of course or program offering;
2. The name and license number of the attendee;
3. The number of hours attended; and
4. The name and signature of the sponsor or instructor.

(d) The sponsor of a continuing education course shall monitor the attendance at each approved course and maintain an attendance log which lists the name and license number of every licensee who attends a course. The program sponsor shall submit the attendance log to the Board upon completion of the course. The log shall document that each licensee has completed the sponsor's course.

(e) The sponsor shall obtain course evaluations from both participants and instructors and maintain these evaluations as part of the sponsor records.

(f) The Board may evaluate the performance of any continuing education instructor through observation of the instructor during the presentation of a course or evaluate the qualifications and abilities of the instructor by conducting an interview during a Board meeting.

(g) A continuing education class shall consist of no more than 50 people.

13:32-6.3 Required course topics

(a) Three months prior to the beginning of a biennial period, the Board shall determine which topics shall be provided by program sponsors for the upcoming biennial period. The Board shall determine these topics at a regularly scheduled public Board meeting.

(b) The list of topics which shall be required by the Board for a biennial period shall be published as a public notice in the New Jersey Register and shall be available at the Board offices.

13:32-6.4 Credit awarded

(a) One continuing education credit shall equal one hour of attendance at a continuing education course.

(b) A licensee who teaches a continuing education course shall earn five credits of continuing education for the biennial period in which he or she teaches.

13:32-6.5 Waiver of continuing education requirement

(a) The Board may waive continuing education requirements on an individual basis for reasons of hardship, such as illness, disability, military duty or other good cause which prevents the licensee from completing continuing education credits during a biennial period.

(b) Any licensee seeking a waiver of the continuing education requirements shall apply to the Board in writing and set forth in specific detail the reasons for requesting the waiver. The licensee shall provide the Board with such supplemental materials as will support the request for waiver.

SUBCHAPTER 16. HOME IMPROVEMENT PRACTICES

13:45A-16.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context indicates otherwise.

“Home improvement” means the remodeling, altering, painting, repairing, or modernizing of residential or noncommercial property or the making of additions thereto, and includes, but is not limited to, the construction, installation, replacement, improvement, or repair of driveways, sidewalks, swimming pools, terraces, patios, landscaping, fences, porches, windows, doors, cabinets, kitchens, bathrooms, garages, basements and basement waterproofing, fire protection devices, security protection devices, central heating and air conditioning equipment, water softeners, heaters, and purifiers, solar heating or water systems, insulation installation, aluminum siding, wall-to-wall carpeting or attached or inlaid floor coverings, and other changes, repairs, or improvements made in or on, attached to or forming a part of the residential or noncommercial property, but does not include the construction of a new residence. The term extends to the conversion of existing commercial structures into residential or noncommercial property and includes any of the above activities performed under emergency conditions.

“Home improvement contract” means an oral or written agreement between a seller and an owner of residential or noncommercial property, or a seller and a tenant or lessee of residential or noncommercial property, if the tenant or lessee is to be obligated for the payment of home improvements made in, to, or upon such property, and includes all agreements under which the seller is to perform labor or render services for home improvements, or furnish materials in connection therewith.

“Residential or non-commercial property” means a structure used, in whole or in substantial part, as a home or place of residence by any natural person, whether or not a single or multi-unit structure, and that part of the lot or site on which it is situated and which is devoted to the residential use of the structure, and includes all appurtenant structures.

“Sales representative” means a person employed by or contracting with a seller for the purpose of selling home improvements.

“Seller” means a person engaged in the business of making or selling home improvements and includes corporations, partnerships, associations and any other form of business organization or entity, and their officers, representatives, agents and employees.

13:45A-16.2 Unlawful practices

(a) Without limiting any other practices which may be unlawful under the Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1 et seq., utilization by a seller of the following acts and practices involving the sale, attempted sale, advertisement or performance of home improvements shall be unlawful hereunder:

1. Model home representations: Misrepresent or falsely state to a prospective buyer that the buyer’s residential or noncommercial property is to serve as a “model” or “advertising job”, or use any other prospective buyer lure to mislead the buyer into believing that a price reduction or other compensation will be received by reason of such representations;

2. Product and material representations: Misrepresent directly or by implication that products or materials to be used in the home improvement:

i. Need no periodic repainting, finishing, maintenance or other service;

ii. Are of a specific or well-known brand name, or are produced by a specific manufacturer or exclusively distributed by the seller;

iii. Are of a specific size, weight, grade or quality, or possess any other distinguishing characteristics or features;

iv. Perform certain functions or substitute for, or are equal in performance to, other products or materials;

v. Meet or exceed municipal, state, federal, or other applicable standards or requirements;

vi. Are approved or recommended by any governmental agency, person, firm or organization, or that they are the users of such products or materials;

vii. Are of sufficient size, capacity, character or nature to do the job expected or represented;

viii. Are or will be custom-built or specially designed for the needs of the buyer; or

ix. May be serviced or repaired within the buyer’s immediate trade area, or be maintained with replacement and repair parts which are readily available.

3. Bait selling:

i. Offer or represent specific products or materials as being for sale, where the purpose or effect of the offer or representation is not to sell as represented but to bait or entice the buyer into the purchase of other or higher priced substitute products or materials;

ii. Disparage, degrade or otherwise discourage the purchase of products or materials offered or represented by the seller as being for sale to induce the buyer to purchase other or higher priced substitute products or materials;

iii. Refuse to show, demonstrate or sell products or materials as advertised, offered, or represented as being for sale;

iv. Substitute products or materials for those specified in the home improvement contract, or otherwise represented or sold for use in the making of home improvements by sample, illustration or model, without the knowledge or consent of the buyer;

v. Fail to have available a quantity of the advertised product sufficient to meet reasonably anticipated demands; or

vi. Misrepresent that certain products or materials are unavailable or that there will be a long delay in their manufacture, delivery, service or installation in order to induce a buyer to purchase other or higher priced substitute products or materials from the seller.

4. Identity of seller:

i. Deceptively gain entry into the prospective buyer's home or onto the buyer's property under the guise of any governmental or public utility inspection, or otherwise misrepresent that the seller has any official right, duty or authority to conduct an inspection;

ii. Misrepresent that the seller is an employee, office or representative of a manufacturer, importer or any other person, firm or organization, or a member of any trade association, or that such person, firm or organization will assume some obligation in fulfilling the terms of the contract;

iii. Misrepresent the status, authority or position of the sales representative in the organization he represents;

iv. Misrepresent that the sales representative is an employee or representative of or works exclusively for a particular seller; or

v. Misrepresent that the seller is part of any governmental or public agency in any printed or oral communication including but not limited to leaflets, tracts or other printed material, or that any licensing denotes approval by the governmental agency.

5. Gift offers:

i. Offer or advertise any gift, free item or bonus without fully disclosing the terms or conditions of the offer, including expiration date of the offer and when the gift, free item or bonus will be given; or

ii. Fail to comply with the terms of such offer.

6. Price and financing:

i. Misrepresent to a prospective buyer that an introductory, confidential, close-out, going out of business, factory, wholesale, or any other special price or discount is being given, or that any other concession is made because of a market survey or test, use of materials left over from another job, or any other reason;

ii. Misrepresent that any person, firm or organization, whether or not connected with the seller, is especially interested in seeing that the prospective buyer gets a bargain, special price, discount or any other benefit or concession;

iii. Misrepresent or mislead the prospective buyer into believing that insurance or some other form of protection will be furnished to relieve the buyer from obligations under the contract if the buyer becomes ill, dies or is unable to make payments;

iv. Misrepresent or mislead the buyer into believing that no obligation will be incurred because of the signing of any document, or that the buyer will be relieved of some or all obligations under the contract by the signing of any documents;

v. Request the buyer to sign a certificate of completion, or make final payment on the contract before the home improvement is completed in accordance with the terms of the contract;

vi. Misrepresent or fail to disclose that the offered or contract price does not include delivery or installation, or that other requirements must be fulfilled by the buyer as a condition to the performance of labor, services, or the furnishing of products or materials at the offered or contract price;

vii. Mislead the prospective buyer into believing that the down payment or any other sum constitutes the full amount the buyer will be obligated to pay;

viii. Misrepresent or fail to disclose that the offered or contract price does not include all financing charges, interest service charges, credit investigation costs, building or installation permit fees, or other obligations, charges, cost or fees to be paid by the buyer;

ix. Advise or induce the buyer to inflate the value of the buyer's property or assets, or to misrepresent or falsify the buyer's true financial position in order to obtain credit; or

x. Increase or falsify the contract price, or induce the buyer by any means to misrepresent or falsify the contract price or value of the home improvement for financing purposes or to obtain additional credit.

7. Performance:

i. Deliver materials, begin work, or use any similar tactic to unduly pressure the buyer into a home improvement contract, or make any claim or assertion that a binding contract has been agreed upon where no final agreement or understanding exists;

ii. Fail to begin or complete work on the date or within the time period specified in the home improvement contract, or as otherwise represented, unless the delay is for reason of labor stoppage; unavailability of supplies or materials, unavoidable casualties, or any other cause beyond the seller's control. Any changes in the dates or time periods stated in a written contract shall be agreed to in writing; or

iii. Fail to give timely written notice to the buyer of reasons beyond the seller's control for any delay in performance, and when the work will begin or be completed.

8. Competitors:

i. Misrepresent that the work of a competitor was performed by the seller;

ii. Misrepresent that the seller's products, materials or workmanship are equal to or better than those of a competitor; or

iii. Use or imitate the trademarks, trade names, labels or other distinctive marks of a competitor.

9. Sales representations:

i. Misrepresent or mislead the buyer into believing that a purchase will aid or help some public, charitable, religious, welfare or veterans' organization, or misrepresent the extent of such aid or assistance;

ii. Knowingly fail to make any material statement of fact, qualification or explanation if the omission of such statement, qualification or explanation causes an advertisement, announcement, statement or representation to be false, deceptive or misleading; or

iii. Misrepresent that the customer's present equipment, material, product, home or a part thereof is dangerous or defective, or in need of repair or replacement.

10. Building permits:

i. No seller contracting for the making of home improvements shall commence work until he is sure that all applicable state or local building and construction permits have been issued as required under state laws or local ordinances; or

ii. Where midpoint or final inspections are required under state laws or local ordinances, copies of inspection certificates shall be furnished to the buyer by the seller when construction is completed and before final payment is due or the signing of a completion slip is requested of the buyer.

11. Guarantees or warranties:

i. The seller shall furnish the buyer a written copy of all guarantees or warranties made with respect to labor services, products or materials furnished in connection with home improvements. Such guarantees or warranties shall be specific,

clear and definite and shall include any exclusions or limitations as to their scope or duration. Copies of all guarantees or warranties shall be furnished to the buyer at the time the seller presents his bid as well as at the time of execution of the contract, except that separate guarantees or warranties of the manufacturer of products or materials may be furnished at the time such products or materials are installed.

12. Home improvement contract requirements writing requirement: All home improvement contracts for a purchase price in excess of \$ 200.00, and all changes in the terms and conditions thereof shall be in writing. Home improvement contracts which are required by this subsection to be in writing, and all changes in the terms and conditions thereof, shall be signed by all parties thereto, and shall clearly and accurately set forth in legible form all terms and conditions of the contract, including, but not limited to, the following:

i. The legal name and business address of the seller, including the legal name and business address of the sales representative or agent who solicited or negotiated the contract for the seller;

ii. A description of the work to be done and the principal products and materials to be used or installed in performance of the contract. The description shall include, where applicable, the name, make, size, capacity, model, and model year of principal products or fixtures to be installed, and the type, grade, quality, size or quantity of principal building or construction materials to be used. Where specific representations are made that certain types of products or materials will be used, or the buyer has specified that certain types of products are to be used, a description of such products or materials shall be clearly set forth in the contract;

iii. The total price or other consideration to be paid by the buyer, including all finance charges. If the contract is one for time and materials, the hourly rate for labor and all other terms and conditions of the contract affecting price shall be clearly stated;

iv. The dates or time period on or within which the work is to begin and be completed by the seller;

v. A description of any mortgage or security interest to be taken in connection with the financing or sale of the home improvement; and

vi. A statement of any guarantee or warranty with respect to any products, materials, labor or services made by the seller.

13. Disclosures and obligations concerning preservation of buyers' claims and defenses:

i. If a person other than the seller is to act as the general contractor or assume responsibility for performance of the contract, the name and address of such person shall be disclosed in the oral or written contract, except as otherwise agreed, and the contract shall not be sold or assigned without the written consent of the buyer;

ii. No home improvement contract shall require or entail the execution of any note, unless such note shall have conspicuously printed thereon the disclosures required by either State law (N.J.S.A. 17:16C-64.2 (consumer note)) or Federal law (16 C.F.R. section 433.2) concerning the preservation of buyers' claims and defenses.

13:45C UNIFORM REGULATIONS

SUBCHAPTER 1. LICENSEE DUTY TO COOPERATE AND TO COMPLY WITH BOARD ORDERS

13:45C-1.1 Applicability, scope and definitions

(a) This subchapter shall apply to all licensees of any board, committee or sub-unit within the Division of Consumer Affairs.

(b) For the purpose of this subchapter, “licensee” shall mean any licensee, permittee, certificate holder or registrant of:

1. The Division of Consumer Affairs;
2. Any professional or occupational licensing board within the Office of Professional/Occupational Boards and any committee, or other subunit of a board or committee located within the Division;
3. The Office of Consumer Protection; or
4. The Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission.

13:45C-1.2 Licensee’s duty to cooperate in investigative inquiries

(a) A licensee shall cooperate in any inquiry, inspection or investigation conducted by, or on behalf of, a board, the Director or the licensee’s licensing agency into a licensee’s conduct, fitness or capacity to engage in a licensed profession or occupation where said inquiry is intended to evaluate such conduct, fitness or capacity for compliance with applicable statutory or regulatory provisions.

(b) A licensee’s failure to cooperate, absent good cause or bona fide claim of a privilege not identified in N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.5 as unavailable, may be deemed by the board, the Director, or the licensing agency to constitute professional or occupational misconduct within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) or the agency’s enabling act and thus subject a licensee to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) or the agency’s enabling act.

13:45C-1.3 Specific conduct deemed failure to cooperate

(a) The following conduct by a licensee may be deemed a failure to cooperate and, therefore, professional or occupational misconduct and grounds for suspension or revocation of licensure:

1. The failure to timely respond to an inquiry to provide information in response to a complaint received concerning licensee conduct;
2. The failure to timely provide records related to licensee conduct;
3. The failure to attend any scheduled proceeding at which the licensee’s appearance is directed. In the event that a licensee elects to retain counsel for the purpose of representation in any such proceeding, it shall be the licensee’s responsibility to do so in a timely fashion. The failure of a licensee to retain counsel, absent a showing of good cause therefor, shall not cause an adjournment of the proceeding;
4. The failure to timely respond or to provide information requested pursuant to a demand under N.J.S.A. 45:1-18 or other applicable law or to provide access to any premises from which a licensed profession or occupation is conducted. Included within this paragraph shall be the failure to respond to any demand for statement or report under oath, the failure to permit the examination of any goods, ware or item used in the rendition of the professional or occupational service and the failure to grant access to records, books or other documents utilized in the practice of the occupation or profession;
5. The failure to answer any question pertinent to inquiry made pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-18 or other applicable law unless the response to said question is subject to a bona fide claim of privilege;

6. The failure to make proper and timely response by way of appearance or production of documents to any subpoena issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-18 or as may otherwise be provided by law; or

7. The failure to provide to the Board, the Director or the licensing agency timely notice of any change of address from that which appears on the licensee's most recent license renewal or application.

13:45C-1.4 Failure to comply with Board orders as professional or occupational misconduct

The failure of a licensee to comply with an order duly entered and served upon the licensee or of which the licensee has knowledge shall be deemed professional or occupational misconduct.

13:45C-1.5 Unavailability of privileges in investigative or disciplinary proceedings

(a) In any investigative inquiry conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-18 or in any disciplinary proceeding conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21, or as may otherwise be authorized by law, the physician-patient privilege, psychologist-patient privilege, marriage and family therapist-client privilege, professional counselor-client privilege, associate counselor-client privilege, social worker-client privilege and the alcohol and drug counselor-client privilege shall be unavailable.

(b) Any statements or records otherwise subject to a claim of the stated privileges which may be obtained by the Board, its agent or the Attorney General pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-18 shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed unless so ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, the appropriate licensing board or the Office of Administrative Law in a contested case.

13:45C-1.6 Maintenance of and access to statements, records or other information that is subject to a privilege declared unavailable

(a) Any statements, records or other information which may be subject to any privilege declared unavailable in this subchapter shall be maintained in a secure place and manner by:

1. The evidence custodian within the Division of Consumer Affairs, Enforcement Bureau;

2. The professional or occupational licensing board and the committee or other subunit of a board or committee located within the Division which has a direct connection with, or a need for access to, the matter to which the statements, records or other information pertain; or

3. A Deputy Attorney General.

(b) Except as may be otherwise ordered as provided in the subchapter, access to statements, records or other information shall be afforded only to employees of the Attorney General, the Enforcement Bureau, or the Board or other subunit of the Division having a direct connection with, or a need for access to, the matter to which the statement, records or other information pertain.

(c) The statements, records or other information shall be retained only for the period of time during which an investigation remains open or until the completion of all administrative or judicial proceedings relating thereto, at which time they shall be returned to the licensee or other person from whom they were obtained. In the absence of such licensee or other person, the statements, records or other information shall be returned to the patient, where appropriate.

